Case 1:07-cv-07063-BSJ-FM Document 33-2 Filed 05/07/2008 Page 1 of 32

EXHIBIT A

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

JUDGE JONES

ROGER R. CRANE, JR,

Plaintiff,

COMPLAINT

~ V5 ~

POETIC PRODUCTS LIMITED,

Defendant.

Plaintiff, Roger R. Crane, Jr., by his attorneys, Nixon Peabody LLF

Complaint against Poetic Products Limited, alleges as follows:

NATURE OF THIS ACTION

- l, The Last Confession, a play authored by New York attorney Roger R. Crane, Jr. ("Crane"), is currently celebrating success in London, England, where it opened this year to rave reviews from critics and theatre-goers alike. The play is a historical mystery thriller surrounding the death of Pope John Paul I. The Pope's untimely death is renowned, and was of acute public interest in the late 1970's and early 1980's. In 1978, thirty-three days after his election, Pope John Paul I was dead. No official investigation was conducted, no autopsy was performed, and the Vatican's press release about the cause of death was found to be largely false. Mr. Crane's play is a gripping thriller that goes behind the scenes at the 1978 Vatican, uncovering the bitter rivalries, the political maneuverings and the unspoken crises of faith that surrounded the death of Pope John Paul I.
- 2. Defendant Poetic Products Limited ("PPL") is the copyright holder to a book authored by David Yallop entitled "In God's Name: An Investigation Into The Murder of Pope

John Paul I' ("In God's Name"). In God's Name is a self-proclaimed "classic work of investigative writing" about the death of Pope John Paul I. According to its preface, In God's Name was a product of nearly three years of research, and states that the reader should be assured that "all the information, all the details, all the facts, have been checked and double checked to the extent multiple sources were available."

- 3. While both In God's Name and The Last Confession focus on the mysterious death of Pope John Paul I, and, as such, share some common facts and some common conclusions, Yallop's book bears little resemblance to Crane's play. Nonetheless, PPL, through its counsel, claims that The Last Confession infringes In God's Name, threatens to sue Crane for copyright infringement, and has through correspondence, placed a cloud on the ownership rights of Crane in The Last Confession.
- 4. Apart from elements common to historical and religious facts and beliefs surrounding Pope John Paul I's death, *The Last Confession* is not substantially similar to *In* God's Name. There is no basis for PPL's claims of infringement, and Crane has filed this declaratory judgment action in order to resolve this dispute and obtain a declaration that The Last Confession does not infringe PPL's copyright or any other interests in In God's Name.

PARTIES

5. Plaintiff Crane is an attorney who resides and practices law in New York, and is the author and exclusive copyright owner of The Last Confession. A certificate of registration for Crane's The Last Confession, Registration No. TX-4-640-311, is annexed hereto as Exhibit A. Crane holds another copyright registration for a shorter, revised version of The Last Confession, Registration No. PAu-2-801-288. The U.S. Copyright Office Record for this registration is annexed hereto as Exhibit B.

- 6. Upon information and belief, defendant PPL is a private company with a principal place of business at 58-60 Berners Street, London, England.
- 7. Upon information and belief, PPL is the copyright holder of the book In God's Name, authored by David Yallop.
- 8. PPL registered In God's Name with the United States Copyright Office, Registration Number TX-1-499-279.
- 9. In God's Name is published by Carroll & Graf Publishers, an imprint of Avalon Publishing Group, Inc., located at 245 West 17th Street, 11th Floor, New York, NY 10011, and is for sale in bookstores in New York City, and can also be purchased in New York and elsewhere via the internet.

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

- 10. Crane seeks a declaration of his rights pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 2201(a) and 2202, in order to resolve an actual controversy within this Court's jurisdiction between the parties. Subject matter jurisdiction exists pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1331, 1332(a)(2) and 1338(a).
- 11. This Court has personal jurisdiction over PPL pursuant to N.Y. CPLR 302(a)(1) because, among other things, PPL, through its agent publisher located in New York City, is offering In God's Name for sale within the state of New York.
 - 12, Venue is proper in this District pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1391.

THE CONTROVERSY BETWEEN THE PARTIES

13. On multiple occasions in June and July, 2007, PPL sent correspondence to Crane asserting that The Last Confession infringes PPL's copyright in In God's Name, and has communicated expressly to the publisher, director and producers of Crane's play that the play constitutes infringement and has threatened to seek and accounting and damages based on any

likely profits from future productions of The Last Confession or revenues received from film rights.

14. Crane responded to the letters, stating that Crane's The Last Confession does not infringe In God's Name.

FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION (DECLARATORY JUDGMENT PURSUANT TO 28 U.S.C. § 2201(a))

- 15. The allegations of Paragraphs 1 through 14 are realleged as if fully set forth herein.
- 16. The dispute created by PPL's claims of copyright infringement is an actual, substantial and justiciable controversy between the parties requiring resolution by the Court.
- 17. PPL contends that Crane copied In God's Name, and that Crane's The Last Confession infringes PPL's copyright for the same, and has expressly stated its claims for damages, an account of profits in respect to infringements of its copyright, and a right to seek preliminary injunctive or other relief.
- 18. Crane contends that the two works are not substantially similar, that any similarities are between the works are similarities between unprotectable elements of the works, and further contends that any use made by Cranc of In God's Name was a fair use pursuant to 17 U.S.C. § 107.
 - 19. Crane has no adequate remedy at law.

WHEREFORE, Crane demands the following judgment:

1. A declaration that Crane's authorship, publication and exploitation of rights in and to The Last Confession has not in any way infringed the copyright of PPL or any person or entity owning rights to In God's Name or any prior edition or version of the work, or otherwise violated any rights of PPL.

- 2. An award if attorneys fees in connection with this action.
- 3. For such other relief as the Court deems just.

Dated: August 8, 2007

NIXON PEABODY LLP

Frank H. Penski (FP 9221)

Tamar Y. Duvdevani (TD 7603)

437 Madison Avenue

New York, New York 10023

(212) 940-3000

Attorneys for Plaintiff Roger R. Crane, Jr.

UNITED STATES DISTRICT OF		
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POETIC PRODUCTS LIMI	TED,	:
	Defendant.	;
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COMPLAINT EXHIBIT A

CERTIFICATE OF REGISTRATION



This Certificate Issued under the seal of the Copyright . Office in accordance with title 17, United States Code, attests that registration has been made for the work identified below. The information on this cartificate has been made a part of the Copyright Office records.

> REGISTER OF COPYRIGHTS United States of America

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	Defendant.	•	
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COMPLAINT EXHIBIT B

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Registered Works Database (Title Search)

Search For: LAST CONFESSION

1 Item

For a list of commonly used abbreviations that appear in the catalog record, click here.

1. Registration Number: PAu-2-801-288

Title: The last confession.

Description: 116 p. Note: A play.

Claimant: acRoger R. Crane , Jr., 1946-

Created: 1997 Registered: 7Oct03

Title on © Application: John Paul; The last confession of Cardinal Giovanni Benelli.

Previous Related Version: Prev. reg. 1997, TX 4-640-311.

Claim Limit: NEW MATTER: additions & revisions.

Special Codes; 3/D

Home | Contact Us | Legal Notices | Freedom of Information Act (FDIA) | Library of Congress

U.S. Copyright Office 101 Independence Ave. S.E. Washington, D.C. 20559-6000 (202) 707-3000

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

SUMMONS IN A CIVIL ACTION

ROGER R. CRANE, JR,

Plaintiff

CASE NUMBER

-against-

CIV 7063

POETIC PRODUCTS LIMITED,

Defendant

JUDGE JONES

To:

Poetic Products Limited 58-60 Berners Street London, England W1T 3JS

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and required to file with the Clerk of the Court and serve upon Plaintiff's attorney;

Frank H. Penski, Esq. NIXON PEABODY LLP 437 Madison Avenue New York, New York 10022

an answer to the complaint which is served on you with this summons, within 20 days after service of this summons on you, exclusive of the day of service. If you fail to do so, judgment by default will be taken against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint. Any answer that you serve on the parties to this action must be filed with the Clerk of this Court within a reasonable period of time after service.

J. MICHAEL McMAHON

'AUG 0 8 2007

DATE

BY DEPUTY CLERK

EXHIBIT B

Tamara Carmichael
Christelette A. Hoey
Joshua Krumholz (*Pro Hac Papers to be Submitted*)
HOLLAND & KNIGHT LLP
195 Broadway
New York, New York 10007
(212) 513-3200

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

ROGER R. CRANE, JR.,

07 CV 7063 Judge Jones

Plaintiff,

ANSWER; COUNTERCLAIMS AND DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL

-against-

:

POETIC PRODUCTS LIMITED,

Defendant.

Defendant, Poetic Products Limited ("Poetic Products") hereby answers the allegations in the Complaint filed by Plaintiff Roger R. Crane, Jr. ("Crane"), asserts its affirmative defenses, and asserts counterclaims for copyright infringement and unfair and deceptive trade practices.

I. ANSWER

For its Answer, Poetic Products hereby states:

NATURE OF THIS ACTION

1. Poetic Products admits that Crane authored a play entitled "The Last Confession" (the "Play") and that Crane is a New York attorney. Poetic Products further admits that the Play was performed in the UK at the Theatre Royal, Haymarket, London from late June 2007 until

approximately September 2007 subsequent to its first public performance at the Chichester Festival Theatre, Chichester, England in early May 2007, and thereafter at various locations in England until its transfer to London in early June 2007. The reviews of the Play were mixed, some positive, others not. Poetic Products admits that Pope John Paul I's death in 1978 was untimely, occurring 33 days after his election as Pope, and that his death was of public knowledge and interest at the time and subsequently and continues to be of public interest. Poetic Products admits that no official Vatican investigation was conducted into the Pope's death, no autopsy was performed and the Vatican's press release about the cause of death was, in David Yallop's view as expressed in "In God's Name," false. The reminder of this paragraph is denied.

- 2. Poetic Products admits it holds the copyright to a book authored by David Yallop entitled "In God's Name: An Investigation Into The Murder of Pope John Paul I" ("In God's Name"). Poetic Products admits as to the most recent edition of In God's Name published in 2007, that it is stated that on the cover that the book is a "classic work of investigative writing whose revelation will continue to reverberate around the world." Poetic Products admits the allegation in paragraph 2 regarding the preface of In God's Name and that it states "all the information, all the details, all the facts, have been checked and double checked to the extent multiple sources were available. [David Yallop] take[s] the responsibility for putting the evidence together and for the conclusions reached."
- 3. Poetic Products admits that it claims The Last Confession infringes In God's Name. Poetic Products admits that the parties were involved in pre-suit communications in the UK with respect to Crane's infringement in that country. Poetic Products otherwise denies the remaining allegations in paragraph 3 of the Complaint.

Page 16 of 32

4. Poetic Products denies that The Last Confession is not substantially similar to In God's Name and that Poetic Products has no basis for claiming infringement. Poetic Products is without sufficient knowledge or information to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations regarding Crane's motivation or purpose in filing this action as stated in paragraph 4 of the Complaint and, therefore, Poetic Products denies same.

PARTIES

- 5. Poetic Products admits that Crane is an attorney who practices law in New York, and that the face of the certificates of registration for "The Last Confession," Registration No. TX-4-640-311 and Registration No. PAu-2-801-288 indicate the copyrights were issued to Crane. Poetic Products is without sufficient knowledge or information to form a belief as to the truth of the remaining allegations in paragraph 5 of the Complaint and, therefore, denies them.
- б. Poetic Products admits it is a private company incorporated under the laws of England and Wales with its registered office at 58-60 Berners Street, London, England,
- 7. Poetic Products admits it holds a U.S. and UK copyright to the book "In God's Name" which book is authored by David Yallop.
- 8. Poetic Products admits that it registered "In God's Name" with the United States Copyright Office, Registration Number TX-1-499-279.
- 9. Poetic Products admits "In God's Name" is published by "Carroll & Graf," an imprint of Avalon Publishing Group, Inc., located at 245 West 17th Street, 11th Floor, New York, New York 10011 and that "In God's Name" is sold in bookstores in New York City, and may be purchased in New York and elsewhere via the Internet.

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

- 10. The allegations in paragraph 10 are legal conclusions to which no response is required. To the extent paragraph 10 contains any factual allegations, Poetic Products denies them.
 - 11. Poetic Products denies the allegations in paragraph 11.
- 12. The allegations in paragraph 12 are legal conclusions to which no response is required. To the extent paragraph 12 contains any factual allegations, Poetic Products denies them.

THE CONTROVERSY BETWEEN THE PARTIES

- 13. Poetic Products admits Crane has authored a play entitled "The Last Confession", which infringes Poetic Products' registered U.S. copyright in "In God's Name," and to that extent Crane is infringing Poetic Products' rights and unlawfully and unfairly competing with Poetic Products. Poetic Products also admits it has taken lawful and appropriate steps in the UK to protect its valuable UK copyright in "In God's Name, including asserting its entitlement to relief with respect to infringement of such copyright by Crane. Poetic Products otherwise denies the allegations in paragraph 13, and specifically denies that the alleged communications occurred with respect to Poetic Products' registered U.S. Copyright.
- 14. Poetic Products admits Crane responded to Poetic Products' allegations of infringement by stating "The Last Confession" does not infringe "In God's Name" under UK copyright law.

FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION (DECLARATORY JUDGMENT PURSUANT TO 28 U.S.C. § 2201(a))

14 as if fully set forth herein.

- 16. Poetic Products denies the allegations in paragraph 16 of the Complaint.
- 17. Poetic Products admits Crane has authored a play entitled "The Last Confession," which infringes Poetic Products' registered U.S. copyright in "In God's Name," and to that extent Crane is unlawfully and unfairly competing with Poetic Products. Poetic Products also admits it has taken lawful and appropriate steps to protect its valuable rights in its UK copyright and in its work "In God's Name." The remainder of paragraph 17 is denied.
 - 18. Poetic Products denies the allegations in paragraph 18 of the Complaint.
- 19. The allegations in paragraph 19 of the Complaint are legal conclusions to which no response is required. To the extent paragraph 19 contains any factual allegations, Poetic Products denies them.

AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSES

FIRST DEFENSE

The Complaint fails to state a claim upon which relief may be granted.

SECOND DEFENSE

The Complaint is barred because Crane fails to state his claims with particularity, thereby barring Poetic Products from ascertaining the true and factual nature of Crane's claims and depriving Poetic Products from defending against the Complaint.

THIRD DEFENSE

Crane's claims are barred by the doctrine of unclean hands.

FOURTH DEFENSE

Crane's claims are barred by the doctrine of estoppel.

FIFTH DEFENSE

The Complaint fails to allege a justiciable case and controversy as required by the Declaratory Judgment Act.

SIXTH DEFENSE

Poetic Products reserves the right to amend its affirmative defenses as warranted by discovery and additional information learned in this case.

WHEREFORE, Poetic Products Limited asks that this Court enter judgment in favor of Poetic Products, dismiss Plaintiff's claims against Poetic Products, and award Poetic Products its attorney's fees and costs incurred in connection with defending this action, plus any and all other relief this Court deems just and proper.

II. COUNTERCLAIMS

Defendant/counter-plaintiff, Poetic Products Limited, sues plaintiff/counter-defendant, Roger R. Crane, Jr., and alleges:

PARTIES

- 1. Defendant/counterclaim-plaintiff Poetic Products Limited ("Poetic Products") is a foreign corporation incorporated under the laws of England and Wales with its registered office at 58-60 Berners Street, London, England.
- 2. Upon information and belief, plaintiff/counter-defendant Roger R. Crane, Jr. ("Crane") is an attorney who practices law in New York, New York.

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

3. This Court has subject-matter jurisdiction over Poetic Products' claims for copyright infringement and related claims pursuant to 17 U.S.C. § 101 et seq. This Court has jurisdiction over this action under 28 U.S.C. § 1331 and 28 U.S.C. § 1338. This Court has supplemental jurisdiction over Poetic Products' state law claims under the doctrine of supplemental jurisdiction.

4. Venue is proper in the Court, pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1391(b) and 1400(a), because (a) the acts of infringement and other wrongful conduct alleged occurred in this District and (b) Crane may be found in this District.

FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS

- Poetic Products holds and licenses rights to a published book authored by David Yallop entitled "In God's Name: An Investigation into the Murder of Pope John Paul I" (the "Work").
- 6. Poetic Products owns the exclusive rights to the Work. It holds a valid U.S. copyright in the Work that was duly and properly registered with the United States Copyright Office, bearing the Registration Number TX-1-499-279. See Exhibit A.
- 7. In the UK, Crane (himself, through his agents or by others who acted on his behalf) engaged in conduct, and/or authorized conduct, including the advertising, marketing, promotion, performance and publication of a script and/or other works that infringe Poetic Products' Work namely, a play entitled "The Last Confession" (the "Play"). Such conduct and/or the authorization of such conduct, infringed Poetic Products' UK copyright in In God's Name. The Play was published in the UK and performed in theaters in the UK.
- 8. As a result of Crane's infringing acts in the UK, on or about June 18 and 22, 2007, Poetic Products notified Crane by letters from Poetic Products' English lawyers to Crane's English agent and English lawyers that Crane's Play and acts within the UK infringe Poetic Products' UK intellectual property rights.

Page 21 of 32

- 9. In response to this written notice regarding breach of the UK copyright, Crane (through his English lawyers) denied that his Play infringes Poetic Products' UK copyright.
- 10. The similarities between In God's Name and the Play have been noted publicly as demonstrated, inter alia, by the following UK press reports:
 - (a) In an article published in the London Evening Standard newspaper of June 19, 2007 which reported on an interview with the famous lead actor in the English production of the play, David Suchet, it was stated that "The Last Confession is based on David Yallop's book In God's Name, which has already sold more than six million copies...". It is to be assumed that the author of the article, Fiona Maddocks, based that statement upon information provided to her by David Suchet. Such assumption is based in part upon Mr. Suchet's statement, quoted in the article, that "I first got involved with the play some five years ago, and spent some time working on the script with Robert (sic) Crane", indicating that his knowledge is based upon participation in the writing of the script, in addition to his playing the lead role and having carried out research in preparation for that role. See Exhibit B.
 - (b) In the London published "Big Issue" magazine for the week of July 16-22 2007, a review of the Play stated "His [John Paul 1's] early demise has given rise to conspiracy theories aplenty, and David Yallop's multi-million-selling book, In God's Name, on which this new play by Roger Crane is based". See Exhibit C.
- 11. Upon information and belief, Crane has also committed and/or is continuing to commit acts of copyright infringement against Poetic Products in the U.S., which acts are the subject of this Counterclaim. More specifically, the infringing Play was authored in the U.S. and Crane has published and marketed the Play and/or continues to do so in this country. As a result,

Poetic Products has been damaged and suffered irreparable injury through, *inter alia*, Crane's past copyright infringement of the Work and/or new and future infringements; lost profits and/or opportunities; and damage to Poetic Products' goodwill and reputation. The full extent of Crane's infringement and the resulting damages is not yet known. Crane's conduct has been willful, or, at a minimum, should have known that his actions constitute infringement. Therefore, Crane has been willfully blind and has acted in reckless disregard of Poetic Products' Work and U.S. registered copyright.

12. Poetic Products brings this Counterclaim to restrain and enjoin Crane from his continuing infringement of Poetic Products' rights in the Work in the U.S. Poetic Products further seeks to recover monetary damages as compensation for the harm that it has suffered as a result of Crane's wrongful conduct.

COUNT I (Copyright Infringement)

- 13. Poetic Products realleges and incorporates by this reference each and every allegation set forth in paragraphs 1 through 12 of this Counterclaim.
- 14. Poetic Products is the sole owner of the Work and the corresponding U.S. copyright and Certificate of Registration.
- 15. Crane has infringed the U.S. copyright in the Work by authoring and/or reproducing an infringing work, and further by marketing, promoting and/or distributing infringing materials in the U.S. without approval or authorization from Poetic Products.
- 16. As a result of Crane's conduct, he is liable to Poetic Products for copyright infringement. See 17 U.S.C. § 501. Poetic Products has suffered and continues to suffer damages. Poetic Products is entitled to recover its damages, which include any and all profits

Crane has made as a result of his wrongful conduct. See 17 U.S.C. § 504. Alternatively, Poetic Products is entitled to statutory damages under 17 U.S.C. § 504(c).

- 17. In addition, Crane's infringement has been willful within the meaning of the Copyright Act. At a minimum, Crane has acted with willful blindness to and in reckless disregard of Poetic Products' registered copyrights. Accordingly, the award of statutory damages should be enhanced in accordance with 17 U.S.C. § 504(c)(2).
- 18. Poetic Products is also entitled to injunctive relief, pursuant to 17 U.S.C. § 502, and to an order impounding any and all infringing materials, pursuant to 17 U.S.C. § 503. Poetic Products has no adequate remedy at law for Crane's wrongful conduct because, among other things:
- (a) The Work and Poetic Products' copyright is unique and valuable property that has no readily determinable market value;
- (b) Crane's infringement harms Poetic Products such that Poetic Products could not be made whole by any monetary award; and
- (c) Crane's wrongful conduct and the resulting damage to Poetic Products is continuing.
- Poetic Products is also entitled to recover its attorneys' fees and costs of suit. See
 U.S.C. § 505.

COUNT II (Common Law Unfair Competition)

- 20. Poetic Products realleges and incorporates by this reference each and every allegation set forth in paragraphs I through 12 of this Counterclaim.
- 21. Crane's acts and conduct, as alleged above, constitute unfair competition under applicable common law.

- 22. Crane's acts and conduct are likely to cause confusion and mistake among customers and the public as to the origin or association of Crane's infringing Play. These acts and conduct are likely to lead the public to conclude, incorrectly, that Crane's infringing Play originates with, is sponsored by, or is authorized by Poetic Products, to the damage and harm of Poetic Products and the public.
- 23. Crane's acts and conduct, as alleged above, has damaged and will continue to damage Poetic Products and has resulted in losses to Poetic Products and an illicit gain of profit to Crane in an amount that is unknown at the present time.

PRAYERS FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, Poetic Products respectfully requests judgment against Crane as follows:

- (A) That the Court enter a judgment finding:
- (i) that Crane has infringed Poetic Products' exclusive rights in Certificate of
 Copyright Registration No. TX-1-499-279, in violation of 17 U.S.C. § 501;
- (ii) that Crane has engaged in unfair methods of competition in violation of applicable common law;
- (iii) that Crane has otherwise injured the business reputation and business of Poetic Products by the acts and conduct set forth in this Counterclaim; and
 - (iv) that Crane's acts were willful.
- (B) That the Court issue injunctive relief against Crane, and that Crane, his principals, directors, officers, agents, representatives, servants, employees, attorneys, successors and assigns, and all others in active concert or participation with Crane, be enjoined and restrained from continued and future infringement of the Work.
 - (C) That the Court order Crane to pay Poetic Products damages as follows:

- Poetic Products' damages and Crane's profits pursuant to 17 U.S.C. § (i) 504(b), or in the alternative, enhanced statutory damages pursuant to 17 U.S.C. § 504(c)(2), for Crane's willful infringement; and
- Poetic Products' damages and Crane's profits pursuant to applicable (ii) common law.
- That the Court order Crane to pay Poetic Products both the costs of this action and (D) the reasonable attorneys' fees incurred by Poetic Products in prosecuting this action; and
- That the Court grant Poetic Products such other and additional relief as is just and (E) proper.

JURY DEMAND

Poetic Products demands a jury trial on all claims so triable.

Respectfully Submitted,

HOLLAND & KNIGHT LLP

Tamara Carmichael Christelette Hoey

Joshua Krumholz (Pro Hac Papers

to be Submitted)

195 Broadway, 24th Floor

New York, New York 10007

(212) 513-3200 (telephone)

(212) 385-9010 (fax)

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A thriller based on the death of Pope John Paul I could become the West End's least likely hit. The story will continue to fascinate, says its star David Suchet

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The Last Charlessian is based on David Yaliop's book in Gud's Name, which has already sold more than six million copies (and had its central tenet refuted by British journals of Jan Conveyl). Yaliop argued that several cardinals—such as the shady Vatican booker Cardinal Marcinius, a character in the play—stood to lose everything by John Faul's antender of the play and of the shady was the shady which are the play as took to lose everything by John Faul's antender of the shady was the shady was the shady when the shady was the sh

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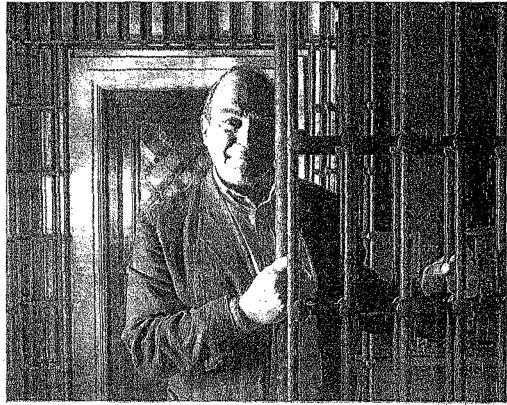
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"Since then," Social comments, "we have had two such conservatives in the Valcas. First John Paul II and now Pupe Benedict, Lucioni could have had a rev penegar, Luciani caulo tiave had it re-obitionary and catalytistic effect on Catholicism"— a religion observed by around one fifth of the wayl's popula-tion and how as a result of immigration from Executy the floriest growing faith in the Line.

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This gentle pope's death this also been indeed with the gruestens that of Roborto Calet. "God's Bonker", found hangling under Handfinger Bridge in 1892. He made Peth headlines this month when fee people were requisted of his mortle: The CIA, the Saviet Hillion, Freemstone, Opis-Del and the malls all have slocking parts in this complex plot (touched out in the film The Godfather. Part 111). For from being solved, these Validan mysteries have only deponent.

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terios tuve only despened. Such mutters fascinate Suchet, 61, younger brother of John, the Beethoven



Document 33-2

Deadly sins: character actor David Suchet yet again proves his versatility with his role as a Valican schemer after playing media tycoon Robert Maxwell

Suchet's act of fail

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prayer : Suchet as Cardinal Benelli in The Last

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We meet in his powdar blue tressing room in Buth's Theatre Royal, the play's has trop indore the West End. Permous for his 70 TV episodes as Aguita Christie's Belgian delective Poirot, Suchet is perious most recognisable for his full forcitive, hawkish sycknows, which seem to arrive in the rivers all head of the rest of him.

Affable, contrasts and charlemnic but for from Banthoyant, he offers

While ten, green ten, stem gluger, key ingredients in a chaple regime to keep a clear it was for this amjor role. If it was for this amjor role if it was for this amjor role if it was for the special some time working on the early will hober Group working on the early will hober Group. Then rothing care of it, Suddenly David Jones came abound. I haven't worked with him since 1975 but this is like a rounism of all the team from our RSC days Richard O'Callegian. Bernard Lalyd, John Franklyn-Robbits, Charles

'The issue of struggle and doubt and dogma is all too recognisable. Fanaticism scares the hell out of me'

Knylatiof us with the chance to those up

Raylall of us with the chance to thress up in the linery and regula of cavitants. The Last Confession is just obe latest of a string plays to make strains and of recent history — Peter Morgan's Franklosson. The Suppart's Rack of this, not to mention works by Michael Franklosson. The Suppart's Rack of this, not to mention works by Michael Franklosson. The Confession of the Market as the Tricycle Theolie's documentary durinas such as Countánance. My the treat? "People are always interested in moments in history, how events came about, who made fittings happen. But he West Caulis increased in the west can be not of the town of the continuous said that one defice of the team said in the continuous said the continuous and this can defice of the team said rules, having a huge cast of 15 main rokes, mostly older men and only one woman, a neal?"

Souther invents that the plans from flore Periods for TV and to mode the complete set armillable on DVO, but stage acting romains a flast love. "The read flux for me, the gift given, for me as an applicable than on the play such different roles." Record they care and the flow and they and Overs in a Lifetime, heading a long list of croults including Satiert in Arraches and relaxen RSC Statespostes in the 1980s. Suched coverate that he plans four incre

look list of crodits including Sakiari in Arasches and adozen RSC Shakespeares in the 1980.

"Teople always nek who is the real brisis Saches because I've siverys done character parts. I silerted off as a 23-year-aid auto-playing and octopestorian. Hence I was sever going to be still mad the next Cary Grant. I'm short, stacks, with a deek solerand the blagest make up had in the butters."

A Bockhands resident with a passion for water the Is Charaman of the River Thomas alliance Sucles will broad to the Haymarkot Theatre by boat, just as Stakespeaning color wave once ferried to the Haymarkot Theatre by boat, just as Stakespeaning tops in using London's Chipper Type Theatre by boat, just as Stakespeaning tops in using London's Chipper Type I and the Tele year on the Stakes and the one from the Tele year on your years, and the one from the Tele year on your was get a cary of collected by traffic lights. The best way for Londoners to get about."

Each night his journey will take him unker Hischfriam Bridge where, a quarter of a contury age, Roberto Calvi's bady thing from scafadding, with bridge is also found a sacopt gread, antifition and cheath," remarks Stichel's character in The Last Confession. To that list might be added conspiracy theories.

be added conspiracy theories

♦ The Last Confession previews From 28 June at the Theatra Royal Raymarket, Information: 9379 4686 626. BIE 1884 6-22 07

BOOKS, ART AND THEATRE: ENTERTAIN

Untitled from the series Pictures From A Rubbish Tip, 1988 - 1989, by Keith Arnatt

the have entered the man, at 75 years old, he selectively unknown gem. competers' Cellery, geoport Street, at 2 (020-783)-1772, before torg, uk)

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BEYOND BELIEF

THEATRE

THE LAST CONFESSION UNTIL SEPTEMBER 15 Haymerket Theatre

ope John Paul I ruletl over the Catholic Church in 1978 for just 33 days before dying in slightly suspicious circumetences. His early demise has given rise to conspiracy theories aplenty, and David Yallop's multi-million-selling book, In God's Name, on which this new play by Roger Crane is based. At the simplest level, it's a whodunit, a mystery that even Hercule Poirot would be pushed to solve.

I mention Agatha Christie's 'tec since, at the heart of the production, is David Suchet as one Cardinal Benelli, who makes the eponymous confession and reveals events in floshback.

A fascinating and powerful figure, he persuades the retiring Albino Luciani to become Pope John I, and after his death narrowly misses becoming pope himself, eventually having to give way to the Pole Karol Wojtyla, who became Pope John Paul II.

The short-lived pontiff was a liberal men of simplicity and homility - delightfully played by Richard O'Callaghan - whose principle aim was to take the church back to humanitarian basics. He gave the corrupt and powerful in the Vatican their marching orders, but died later on the very day that he faced up to his traditionalist opponents. Everything about his death and intentions was hushed up; there was no autopsy.

More than a thriller, this is also a play about power, faith, ambition and greed, set as it is among the politicking of the Vatican. "In the Vatican, everything is confidential and nothing is sucret," remarks one character. All those red cardinals' clocks swishing around and William Dudley's scenery of grilles and doors certainly suggest

RECOMMENDED

THE DECORATOR
JULY 16-21
Mercury Theatre,
Colchester (D)206
573948) Lealie
Grantham stars

in Donald Churchill's farca of mistaken identity.

NAUMACHIA JULY 20-21 Newcestle

Quayside (CIS)-443 4661) Catalan Illa Faira dels Baus in s huge outdoor spectacle

with 60 nerial scrobats. David Suchet in The Lest Confession

plotting and claustrophobia in David Jones' superbly acted and polished production. Suchet, in particular, is compelling as a flawed but fundamentally decent men, who blames himself for Pope John's death, and comes to question his owo faith.

So absorbing is US lawyer Crane's play - surprisingly, his first - that you tend to forget that this is all based on real events. I mean, you couldn't make it up, could you?

Haymarket Theatre, London SWI (0870 901 3356)

MARK COOK

